

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W  
-----231604 013325 /45

P R 231241Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9078  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SP  
SUBJECT: CENTRO DEMOCRATICO: OFFERING UP UDE AS A SACRIFICIAL  
LAMB TO THE CD EQUIPO?

1. A CRESCENDO OF RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT AT LEAST SOME  
WITHIN CENTRO DEMOCRATICO MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO JETTISON  
THE COALITION'S MOST CONTROVERSIAL CONSTITUENT GROUPING,  
THE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC UDE, OR AT LEAST  
ITS MORE REGIME-CONNECTED LEADERS, SUCH AS UDE SECGEN  
MONREAL LUQUE HIMSELF, HAS IN THE PAST 36 HOURS TURNED  
INTO A FLURRY OF ACCUSATIONS AND COUNTER-ACCUSATIONS.

2. CENTRO LEADERS AREILZA AND CABANILLAS (PP), FERNANDEZ  
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ORDONEZ (PSD), ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA (PPDC) AND GARRIGUES,  
CAMUNAS AND LARROQUE (LIBERALS) MET MONDAY TO CONSIDER THE  
POSSIBILITY OF EJECTING SOME OF THE MORE FRANCO-LINKED  
UDE LEADERS AND PERHAPS ABSORBING THE REMAINDER OF  
THE PARTY INTO OTHER CENTRO GROUPS, PRINCIPALLY PPDC.  
NO AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED, HOWEVER, AND MONREAL RESPONDED  
TO RUMORS THAT HE WAS TO BE LURED AWAY WITH THE OFFER OF

AN ENTICING AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT WITH THE ASSERTION THAT HE CONSIDERED AREILZA AND CABANILLAS MORE QUALIFIED FOR SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT.

3. UDE'S LEADERSHIP THEN MET YESTERDAY AND ISSUED A STATEMENT DENOUNCING THE PARTY'S FEDERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PP, CITING PROGRAMMATIC DIFFERENCES AND PUNCTUATED BY MONREAL'S PERSONAL ATTACK ON AREILZA AND CABANILLAS, WHOM HE ACCUSED OF "MANIPULATION" AND OF BEING MOTIVATED BY NARROW SELF-INTEREST. UDE'S FEDERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PP PRE-DATED THE FORMATION OF THE CENTRO. TECHNICALLY, UDE WAS DRAWN INTO THE CENTRO THROUGH THE FEDERATION AGREEMENT WHEN THE PP GOT THE ALLIANCE ROLLING.)

4. WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE SEVERANCE OF THE PP-UDE LINKAGE ALSO MEANT THAT UDE HAD SPLIT WITH THE CENTRO, MONREAL RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE ATTITUDES OF THE OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED. HE ADDED THAT IF UDE LEFT THE ALLIANCE, ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA HAD ASSURED HIM THAT PPDC WOULD DEPART AS WELL. (ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA HAS NEITHER CONFIRMED NOR DENIED MONREAL'S ASSERTION.)

5. AFTER A MEETING LAST NIGHT OF OTHER CENTRO LEADERS, COALITION SPOKESMAN JOSE LUIS ALVAREZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT THEY CONSIDERED MONREAL'S REMARKS "ABSOLUTELY UNACCEPTABLE." ALVAREZ STATED THAT NO DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT THE MEETING, BUT THAT A FURTHER STATEMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING SOMETIME TODAY.

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6. COMMENT: THIS VERBAL WARFARE APPEARS TO DERIVE FUNDAMENTALLY FROM AN ELEVENTH-HOUR CENTRO EFFORT TO BRING THE STAND-OFFISH CD EQUIPO INTO THE FOLD, WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY MITIGATING SOME OF THE CENTRO'S OWN INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS. THE BASIC PURPOSE OF THE CENTRO OPERATION FROM THE OUTSET WAS TO LINK UP WITH THE EQUIPO. BUT THE ATTEMPT FOUNDERED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS (MADRID 665, 1026), INCLUDING THE PRESENCE OF UDE, PERHAPS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT STUMBLING BLOCK.

7. EQUIPO FIGURE ANTONIO VAZQUEZ (RUIZ GIMENEZ' ID) TOLD EMBOFF THAT, ALTHOUGH THE EQUIPO HAD DONE NOTHING TO INSTIGATE CURRENT INTRAMURAL CENTRO TENSIONS, IT OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE MUCH MORE AMENABLE TO AN ELECTORAL ALLIANCE IN THE LOWER HOUSE CONTEST WITH AN UDE-LESS CENTRO THAN WITH THAT COALITION AS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED (EQUIPO LEADERS ALREADY POSIT A BROAD ALLIANCE IN THE UPPER HOUSE CONTEST). UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, HOWEVER, WOULD THERE BE A FUSION OF THE TWO GROUPS. VAZQUEZ STATED THAT HE AND OTHER EQUIPO

MEMBERS BELIEVE THAT DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN AND AMONG CENTRO  
GROUPS COULD WELL BRING MORE SPLINTERING THAN JUST THE  
CURRENT UDE IMBROGLIO, WITH ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA  
BEING A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR AN EARLY EXIT, POSSIBLY BACK  
TO THE EQUIPO ONCE AGAIN. AS FOR AN EXPELLED UDE,  
VAZQUEZ THOUGHT IT COULD SPLINTER THREE WAYS WITH ITS  
MOST CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS GOING TO FRAGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR  
AND THE OTHERS DIVIDING UP BETWEEN THE PP AND PPDC. STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, SP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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